

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-21 were pending. In the present Amendment, claims 1-4, 9-10 and 18-19 are amended, leaving claim 5 in original form and claims 6, 8, 11-12, 14-17 and 20-21 in previously presented form. Also, new claim 22 is added. No new matter is added.

Examiner's Interview

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and consideration during the Telephone Interview held on October 11, 2011. During the Interview, Applicants' representative and Examiner Graham discussed proposed amended independent claim 1 and cited prior art (including PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 03/035440 A1 ("Metz"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0083544 A1 ("Masuda") and PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 02/22409 A1 ("Rapp")). Agreement was not reached on the claims.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, for the reason set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office action. Applicants have amended Fig. 1 and the specification (paragraph [00026]) to identify the central bore hole 47. Fig. 1 has also been amended to re-direct the lead line for the breaking point 36 toward the central bore hole 47. Applicants submit that claim 19 is supported by the specification and drawings and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Metz in view of Masuda. The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-11 and 15-21 as being obvious over Rapp in view of Masuda. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 defines a windshield wiper device (10) a plate-shaped base (12), on which at least one drive unit (18), at least one wiper bearing (14) and at least one retaining element (26) are arranged, characterized in that the plate-shaped base (12) has at least one